Reclamation of land given to sea bird project

3382. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whethrr the proposal for reclamation of 17 acres of port land by Sea Bird Project is pending with Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in handing over the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Director of Ports, Government of Karnataka have forwarded the coordinates of the land, where reclamation is to be done, to the sea bird Project authorities. However, the area indicated covers a portion of beach and part of the sea used by the local fishermen for anchoring of their boats. Port authorities are yet to confirm that the area intimated for reclamation is as per the Master Plan for the Port and is clear of all social issues. Further, Port Department, Government of Karnataka has intimated that mandatory clearance from Central Water Power Research Station, Ministry of Environment and Forest, etc. are yet to be obtained.

Development of LCA Radar

3383. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the much vaunted radar of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) that has been long under development by the DRDO could require foreign help as the radar is now "marooned in uncertainty";

(b) whether it is a fact that the Multi-Mode Radar (MMR), considered the very brain of the LCA is being developed for the past nine years and a sizable portion of the Rs. 3,214 crore sanctioned for the project has gone into making it; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to expedite the development pace?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Indigenous development of Multi Mode Radar (MMR) is being done by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with participation of Defence R&D Organisation. Technical assistance is solicited with associated software for integrating with other indigenously developed MMR equipment. R&D effort will continue to meet the final objectives.

(b) Development of core technologies involved in LCA was the main scope of LCA program. However, development of MMR (in parallel) had been initiated during Phase-I to demonstrate the technology on the rigs. Accelerated efforts to realize an air worthy MMR has been initiated after the approval of Phase-2 in November 2001. As on 31st March,2006 expenditure (un-audited) incurred is Rs. 166.03 crore only.

(c) Sustained R&D activity will continue and to improve the technology base technical assistance of international Radar House of repute to be sought.

Preparation of airmen to face challenges

3384. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is preparing the airmen to face the challenges in the present trend; and

(b) if so, the measures adopted and training given to airmen to face the challenges?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airmen are selected through a selection process which includes testing of knowledge level and physical endurance. On induction, the airmen undergo 12 weeks of Joint Basic Phase Training and are given military orientation training which includes handling of weapon and computer knowledge.

Thereafter, airmen are imparted trade specific training at various technical training institutes of the Indian Air Force. In Service training is